

Amendments to the Claims

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-8 (canceled).

Claim 9 (new). A sensor protection circuit for at least one sensor, the protection circuit which comprises:

at least one supply line for supplying current to the sensor;

a current measuring unit for detecting an electric current flowing through said supply line for preventing damage to the sensor from excess voltage; and

said current measuring unit having connected thereto at least one of a current limiting device for limiting the electric current and a circuit element for disconnecting said at least one supply line.

Claim 10 (new). The sensor protection circuit according to claim 9, wherein said supply line monitored by the current measuring unit is a ground line for the sensor.

Claim 11 (new). The sensor protection circuit according to claim 9, wherein said circuit element for disconnecting said at least one supply line is connected to a control input.

Claim 12 (new). The sensor protection circuit according to claim 9, which further comprises a signal line for recording a sensor signal from the sensor.

Claim 13 (new). The sensor protection circuit according to claim 9, which comprises a voltage line and a ground line each connected to and supplying current to the sensor.

Claim 14 (new). The sensor protection circuit according to claim 13, which comprises means for preventing excess voltages connected in at least one of said voltage line, said ground line, and a signal line connected to the sensor.

Claim 15 (new). The sensor protection circuit according to claim 14, wherein said means includes at least one of a Zener diode and at least one capacitor.

Claim 16 (new). The sensor protection circuit according to claim 15, wherein said Zener diode and/or said at least one capacitor is connected between the voltage line or the signal line and the ground line.

Claim 17 (new). The sensor protection circuit according to claim 15, wherein said sensor comprises at least one Zener diode for short circuit protection, and said Zener diode for preventing excess voltages has a lower breakdown voltage than said Zener diode of said sensor.

Claim 18 (new). In combination with a motor vehicle, a sensor protection circuit for a sensor connected in an electric circuit of the motor vehicle, the sensor protection circuit according to claim 9.